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The Sexual Life of the Child. By A. MOLL. Translated by E. PAUL, with an Introduction by E. L. THORNDIKE. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1912. pp. xv., 339. Price \$1.75 net.

The author, as one would expect from his previous works, has given us a monograph that is both comprehensive in scope and sane in judgment. We note a few conclusions, taken at random: "I regard as one of the gravest scandals of our present penal system the ease with which a girl who makes a pretty curtsy in the court, and who appears to be shamed-faced when giving her evidence, is believed by the judge or magistrate;" "I have been forced more and more to the conclusion that the importance of the factor of sexual experiences in the causation of disease has been greatly overestimated by Freud;" "the sexual enlightenment of the child is advisable; but for effecting enlightenment the school is unsuitable; this matter can best be undertaken by some private person, and above all by the mother; choice of the time must be guided more especially by the indications of psychosexual development;" "it has not been proved that masturbation during childhood is generally dangerous; the possibility of danger is, however, increased by long-continued and frequently repeated masturbation, also by the artificial postponement of the voluptuous acme, and by congenital predisposition to nervous disorders."

Professor Thorndike gives the book a strong recommendation, though he wisely adds a word of warning to those "who are unused to descriptions of symptoms of diseases, abnormalities, and defects." The meat is, indeed too strong for the average 'educated' parent; and this for the simple reason that the knowledge which Dr. Moll purveys is not counterbalanced and put in perspective by like knowledge of the other great systems and functions of the body. A very useful, and on the whole a very reassuring little volume could be made up by selection of the author's conclusions and recommendations, with omission of details.

Historical Studies in Philosophy. By E. BOUTROUX. Translated by F. Rothwell. London, Macmillan & Co., 1912. pp. xi., 336. Price \$2.50 net.

The World We Live In, or Philosophy and Life in the Light of Modern Thought. By G. S. FULLERTON. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1912. pp. xi., 293. Price \$1.50 net.

A First Book in Metaphysics. By W. T. MARVIN. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1912. pp. xiv., 271. Price \$1.50 net.

Conduct and Its Disorders Biologically Considered. By C. A. MERCIER. London, Macmillan & Co., 1911. pp. xxiii., 377. Price \$3.25 net.

We are glad to call attention to these books, though they lie somewhat far afield from the proper interest of the JOURNAL. Professor Boutroux, whose reputation in France is perhaps second only to that of M. Bergson, and who is well known in this country by his study of William James, here discourses of five great figures in the history of thought: Socrates, the founder of moral science, Aristotle, Jacob Boehme, Descartes and Kant. Professor Fullerton essays, in simple and straightforward style, "the working out of a sober realism, which will not refuse to accept suggestions from the idealist where such seem helpful, but which will take pains not to be misled into doing injustice